

Minutes from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Hall Assembly Room on
May 19, 2009 at 7 pm.

Disclaimer: I hope you will find these notes helpful. They are not a complete representation of the meeting, but rather the highlights of topics discussed. Feel free to contact me at Westfield City Services Building (317) 804-3002 if you have any questions. -TB

May 19, 2009

Agenda

- I. Announcements
- II. Eyes@Westfield
- III. Road Construction Updates
- IV. Yard Waste
- V. Future of Westfield Series
- VI. Smoking Ban
- VII. Ending Announcements

I. Announcements

The next WeCAN Meeting will be Tuesday, June 30th.

Garage Sale Signs

Reminder: If individuals or neighborhoods are having garage sales, you must get a permit to put signs in the right-of-way. Please contact Community Development at 804-3171 for more information.

Mayor's Yellow Tie Ball

The second annual [Mayor's Yellow Tie Ball](#) will be held outdoors in the Bridgewater Gardens on June 26th. Proceeds benefit downtown beautification.

Volunteers Needed for Couple of hours to help Police and Fire Departments!!

The City of Westfield's Fire Department and Police Department are working in conjunction with the Hamilton County Health Department to have an exercise to test a section of the "Westfield Ready" program. "Westfield Ready" is a citywide disaster plan outlining steps for the city to take in the event of an emergency. This plan is one of the first in the country to have community involvement by including CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and Westfield is 1st to integrate their community plan with the Health Department. This emergency preparedness exercise is being conducted in order to improve both agency and county capacity to respond to a large-scale public health emergency in accordance with county, state and federal protocols.

The exercise will be held June 13, 2009 and we would like to get about 250 volunteers to commit several hours during the hours of 8 am to 2 pm that day. Since we will be scheduling the volunteers, please send your name, telephone number and contact email address to ron.rothrock@gotown.net. We will be contacting you with more information. If you have or

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know of someone with mobility issues (scooter, crutches, etc), we would love to have you help us make this exercise as real as possible.

The exercise will start for the volunteers at the Sales Office in Centennial South where you will register, get instructions on what your role will be during the exercise. From there you will be taken by bus to another location where the Health Department will establish a mobile Point of Dispensing (POD) facility and then returned by bus back to the Sales Office. This will give you an opportunity to get insight into what you might have to go through in the case of an emergency. This will also give you the opportunity to see and help Police, Fire and CERT teams training to help Westfield in an emergency.

Westfield In Bloom

Reminder: Westfield in Bloom still needs completed [contest entry forms](#) for residents, neighborhoods, and businesses. The registration deadline is June 19th and judging will be June 27th. Please encourage your neighborhood and neighbors to participate and contribute to making Westfield beautiful. Remember that neighborhood entrances are a category as well. Email msweat@westfield.in.gov for more information.

II. Eyes@Westfield

Leane Welsh with the City Informatics Department introduced a new way for citizens to communicate with the City. Residents are encouraged to send picture text messages from their cell phones or emails with pictures attached to eyes@westfield.in.gov. **The program will only capture the subject line so be sure to put all the information in the subject line, not the body of the text or email.**

Once the message is received, it will be assigned to a department or employee. That employee will follow-up within 48 hours to give the sender an update on the status.

Some examples of things to identify are potholes, trash, road kill, misspelled signs, graffiti, downed trees or power lines.

Here is a sample of what you can include in newsletters to your residents:

Sending an email or text to the City of Westfield is so easy!

1. Take a picture from your cell phone or camera
2. Email or picture-text the photo to eyes@westfield.in.gov
3. Report the problem, your name and location in the **subject line only**. (i.e. Tree limb down near 2706 E. 171st St. - thanks Jane Smith)
4. Send the email or picture-text

We will be sending a response to you within 48 hours of the status of the issue.

*Note that text messaging and email access are not always included costs in your cell phone plan. Please check with your cell phone provider for information on your phone and plan.

III. Road Construction Updates

Neil VanTrees, Engineer with the Public Works Department, spoke about the construction projects going on in Westfield. [Click here](#) for more information about the projects.

INDOT Projects

1. SR 32 – Springmill Road to US 31
2. SR 32 – Bam Outdoors to Gunther Blvd.
3. US 31

Westfield Projects

1. Western Way and Greyhound Pass
2. 151st Street and Carey Road Roundabout
3. Sycamore and Birch Streets Drainage Project
4. Crack Sealing
5. Chip Sealing
6. Monon Trail – 146th to 156th Street
7. Monon Trail – 156th Street to SR 32
8. Opticom – 7 intersections
9. Pavement Marking
10. Hydrant Markings
11. Sidewalk ADA replacement project

The School Zone posted speed limit of 20mph was questioned. The speed is determined by the City Council for all schools. In addition for making it safe for children who choose to walk to school, it is also a safe speed for entering and exiting traffic into the school area.

IV. Yard Waste

Tamara Bennett, Customer Service Representative and Project Analyst, spoke about options that the city has in regard to addressing yard waste. The WeCAN Committee on Yard Waste Alternatives met with John Haas of Creative Landscaping on May 13th. The purpose of the meeting was find out what options would suit the City of Westfield. Some key points were that the City should not take grass clippings because of the smell; pick-up service for residential yard waste is costly; drop-off sites can be less than 3 acres and be manned part-time; education is important-putting grass clippings back on the grass is healthy for lawns; the City does not need to buy expensive equipment, it would be better to rent or borrow from surrounding communities that already have the equipment; if the City needs more materials, the City could partner with businesses; and it takes 3 years to get a desirable product out of the compost pile.

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When asked if there was an actual problem with disposing of yard waste in Westfield, less than half agreed. A few reasons to address yard waste is the “going green” aspect of a composting site; the possibility that residents and neighborhoods may be able to use the compost and mulch from the City at a low cost; and to give those residents with mature yards that call in and have a need for disposal an option. Since the City is young, the trees are not producing the leaves and problems other communities have. We would need to pay a consultant to conduct a yard waste audit and ash tree audit to see what our real need is.

Please educate your residents on the current policy: You may put yard waste (grass, leaves, brush) in your trash container.

Also, you have a three cart limit and if you only have one trash and one recycling cart and have a bundle of sticks (no greater than 4 ft long by 18 inches in diameter), Ray’s will pick it up

If it all doesn’t fit, you can spread it out over several weeks or buy the overage bag from Westfield Customer Service for \$1 (note that it is only a 30 gallon bag). The reason for the cost that all goes to Ray’s is that the trash process is automated and to have to stop and get out of the truck slows the process and costs money. So far over 800 bags have been purchased. The other option is to call Ray’s for your third trash cart. Again you can have up to three carts (any combination of trash/recycling).

V. Future of Westfield Series – Chief Todd Burtron

Chief Burtron, Fire Chief, stressed the importance of preparedness of the residents. Westfield Ready has turned now to community outreach. They are designing a handout describing valuable measures to take to protect yourselves in the event of a disaster. Chief Burtron encourages you to hang the information in your clubhouses/meeting areas/pool areas. Westfield Ready is also looking to get an external web presence with google so if anything happens here, the site will still be up and running.

All disasters are local. Everyone will look to government, even government. Residents will look to local government, local to state, state to federal. Ultimately you are accountable for you. The City’s priorities will be police and fire protection, water and electricity. You need to have a plan for your family. www.ready.gov is a great resource guide. Please take a look; it could save your life.

Neighborhood hubs are where you can give the City information and the City knows where to get information to you. Please fill out the [Neighborhood Hub Survey](#). These neighborhoods have already completed the survey: Ashfield, Bridlewood, Centennial, Cherry Wood, Merrimac, Springdale Farms, and Village Farms.

As WeCAN has discussed in the past, CERT is a great opportunity for citizens to get involved and prepare to help others in the event of an emergency. To get on the waiting list, please contact Rob Gaylor at rgaylor@westfield.in.gov.

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June 13th – the mock full-scale public health emergency is a chance for you to get involved and help make the process as real as possible. Please send your name, telephone number and contact email address to ron.rothrock@gotown.net to find out more information.

The Westfield Fire Department is looking at plans for a new fire station. Once they come up with a master plan, they can use the same plan to build other fire stations as the need arises without duplicating the cost each time.

VI. Smoking Ban

An overall [smoking ban ordinance](#) was proposed at the Westfield City Council meeting on May 11, 2009. Tom Smith and Mayor Cook have requested that you encourage your residents and businesses to email the City Council Members. They can be reached by emailing CouncilMembers@westfield.in.gov. The public hearing for the ban will be June 8. The Council has been tasked with coming up with standard questions if they choose to do a citywide survey.

VII. Closing Announcements

Next WeCAN Meeting: June 30th

If you have questions/suggestions, please email Tammy at tblackburn@westfield.in.gov.

Thank you!